

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS

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AUTHORITY

GHOST RIDER & BLAZE

SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE

Part 2
of 6

ADAM ROBERT



For eons, the walls between our earth and the supernatural realms have held fast ... until now. Now those walls are weakening, and LILITH, Queen of Evil, Mother of Demons, has risen from her slumber to shatter the walls and free her hellish spawn. Only the strangest of alliances can drive her back ... a union of old enemies and new heroes, in a battle forever to be remembered as the ...

RISE OF THE MIDNIGHT SONS™

SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #1 PART 2

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GHOST RIDER #28 Part 1

MORBIUS #1 Part 3

DARKHOLD #1 Part 4

NIGHTSTALKERS #1 Part 5

GHOST RIDER #31 Part 6

BROOKLYN-QUEENS EXPRESSWAY

CHAPTER ONE

ESCAPE FROM NEW YORK
INTO VISIONS OF HELL.

THE BROOKLYN-
QUEENS EXPRESSWAY...

A FEW MINUTES AGO, JOHN BLAZE,
THE WORLD'S GREATEST STUNT
CYCLIST, ONCE AGAIN FOUND
HIMSELF RIDING A MOTORCYCLE
OF MYSTICAL ORIGINS.*

ONLY IN HIS WORST NIGHTMARES
DID BLAZE EVER IMAGINE THAT HE,
ONCE POSSESSED BY THE DEMONIC
ENTITY, ZARATHOS, WOULD BE RIDING
SIDE BY SIDE WITH GHOST RIDER.

*SEE GHOST RIDER #28.





THE HELL-FIRE!



A FEW MINUTES
LATER, ATOP THE
BROOKLYN
BRIDGE...

NOT
BY A LONG
SHOT!

I WANT ANSWERS.
NO MORE DRAGGING
ME ALL OVER THE CITY
UNTIL YOU TELL ME
MORE ABOUT THIS VI-
SION YOU'VE HAD.

DAN. I SAW
IT THROUGH DAN'S
EYES. INNOCENT BLOOD
WILL BE SPILLED. LILITH
IS COMING. WE CAN
STOP HER.

YEAH. YEAH. DAN
IS DEAD. BLACKOUT
KILLED HIM. MAYBE
YOU HELPED.

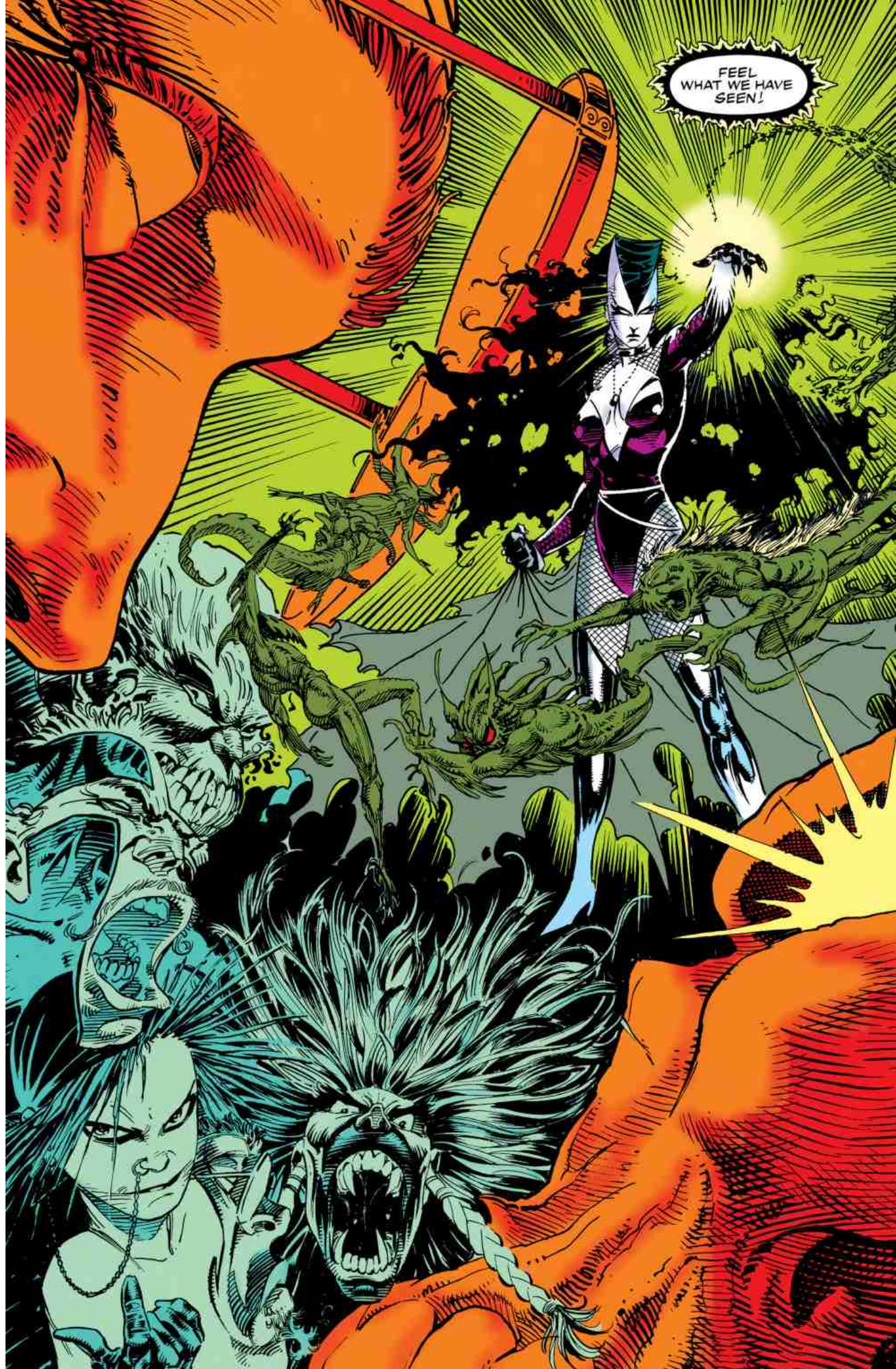
I SHOULD
JUST FINISH YOU
OFF NOW. BEFORE
YOU DRAG ME BACK
TO A PAST I'VE BEEN
TRYING TO
FORGET.

THEY'RE
GONE.

IT'S
OVER.







STOP!
NO MORE!



NOW,
BLAZE...

THUNK

...YOU HAVE
SEEN WHAT I'VE SEEN
THROUGH DAN'S
EYES.

WILL
YOU HELP ME
MAKE SENSE
OF IT?

SHE HAS
TO BE
STOPPED.

YES. WILL
YOU HELP?

I'VE GOT TO
REGROUP FIRST.
GET HOME.

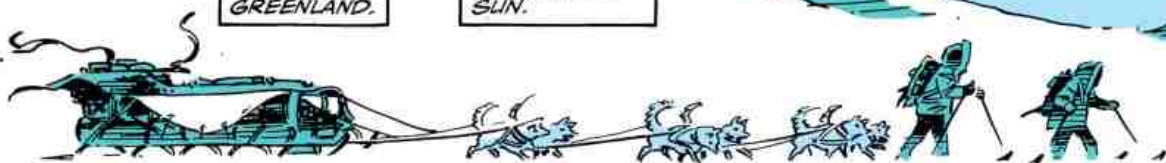
THEN I'LL
FIGURE OUT IF
I WANT TO GET
INVOLVED.



REBIRTH.

NORTHERN
GREENLAND.

THE LAND OF
THE MIDNIGHT
SUN.



THESE FROZEN
WASTELANDS HAVE
INTRIGUED EXPLOR-
ERS AND SCIENTISTS
FOR YEARS.

BRAVE MEN
WILLING TO
RISK THEIR
LIVES FOR
SCIENCE.

TODAY ANOTHER
EXPEDITION NEARS
ITS CONCLUSION.

MONTHS OF
HARDSHIP HAVE
BEEN REWARDED
WITH THE VICTORY
OF DISCOVERY.

AN ANCIENT LEVIATHAN
HAS RISEN FROM THE ICE.

THE STENCH OF
DECAY FILLS
THE AIR...

BUT DR. PHILLIP HENDERSON
AND DR. ADAM BRIGMAN'S
HEADS ARE FILLED WITH THE
HEADY AROMA OF FAME.



NO WORDS ARE
EXCHANGED AS
THE TWO SCIENT-
ISTS BEGIN TO
EXAMINE...



...AND ARE
EXAMINED.



A HAND.

A THING
OF BEAUTY.

FEELINGS
OF JEALOUSY
ARE STIRRED
WITHIN DR.
HENDERSON...

... AS THE HAND
EXPLORES THE
FACE OF HIS
PARTNER AND
FRIEND.

THE FEELINGS
DISAPPEAR...

...EVEN AS DOES
DR. BRIGMAN.



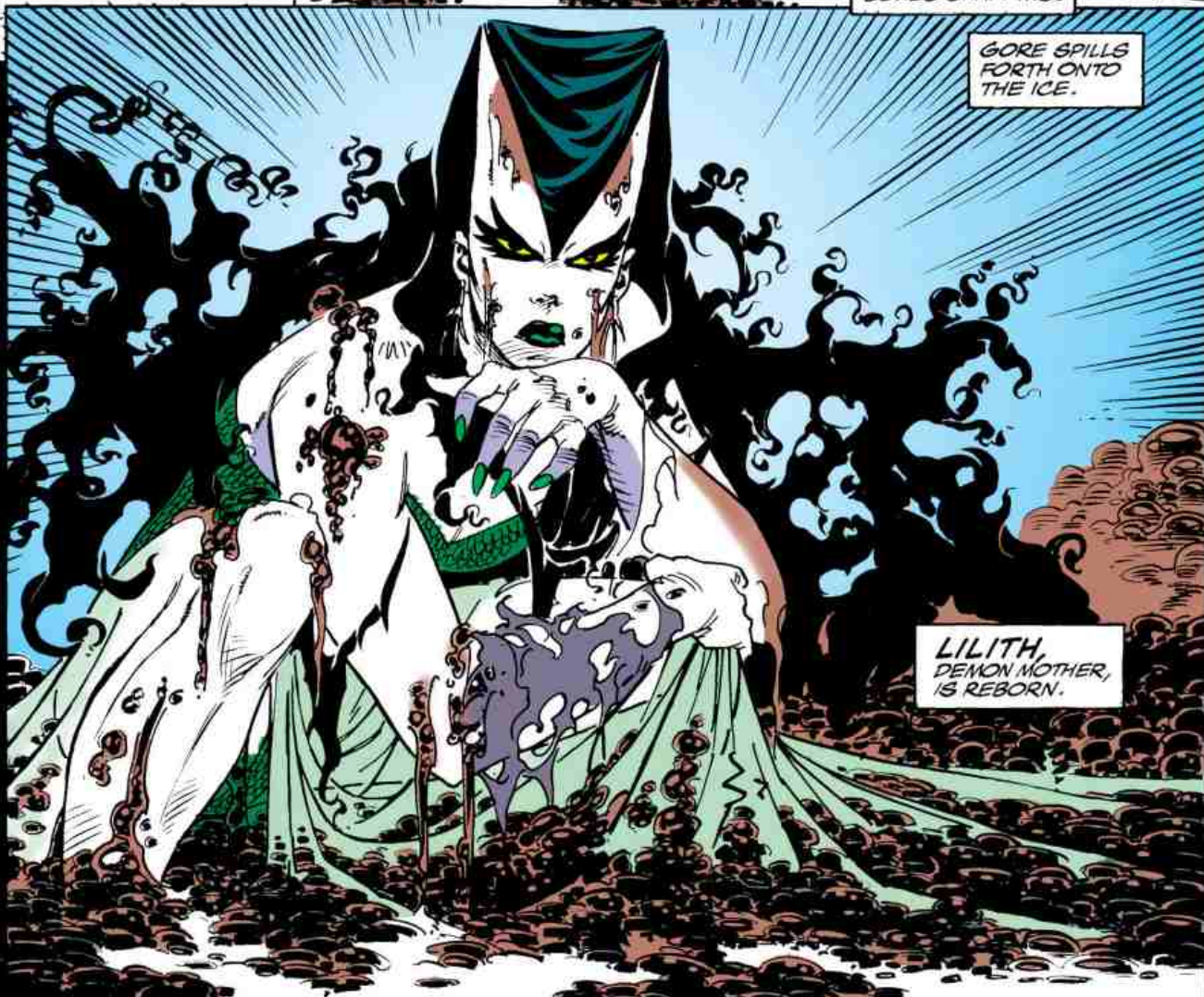
OMIGOD! ADAM!!

SOUNDS EMERGE
FROM THE INTERIOR
OF THE LEVIATHAN.

FLESH AND
MUSCLE TEARING.

BONES SNAPPING.

GORE SPILLS
FORTH ONTO
THE ICE.



LILITH,
DEMON MOTHER,
IS REBORN.

IT HAS BEEN SO LONG.

BUT THE TIME IS HERE.

OH THAT YOU WERE ONE OF MINE OWN CHILDREN.

YOUR PRESENCE HAS HELPED IN MY RELEASE.

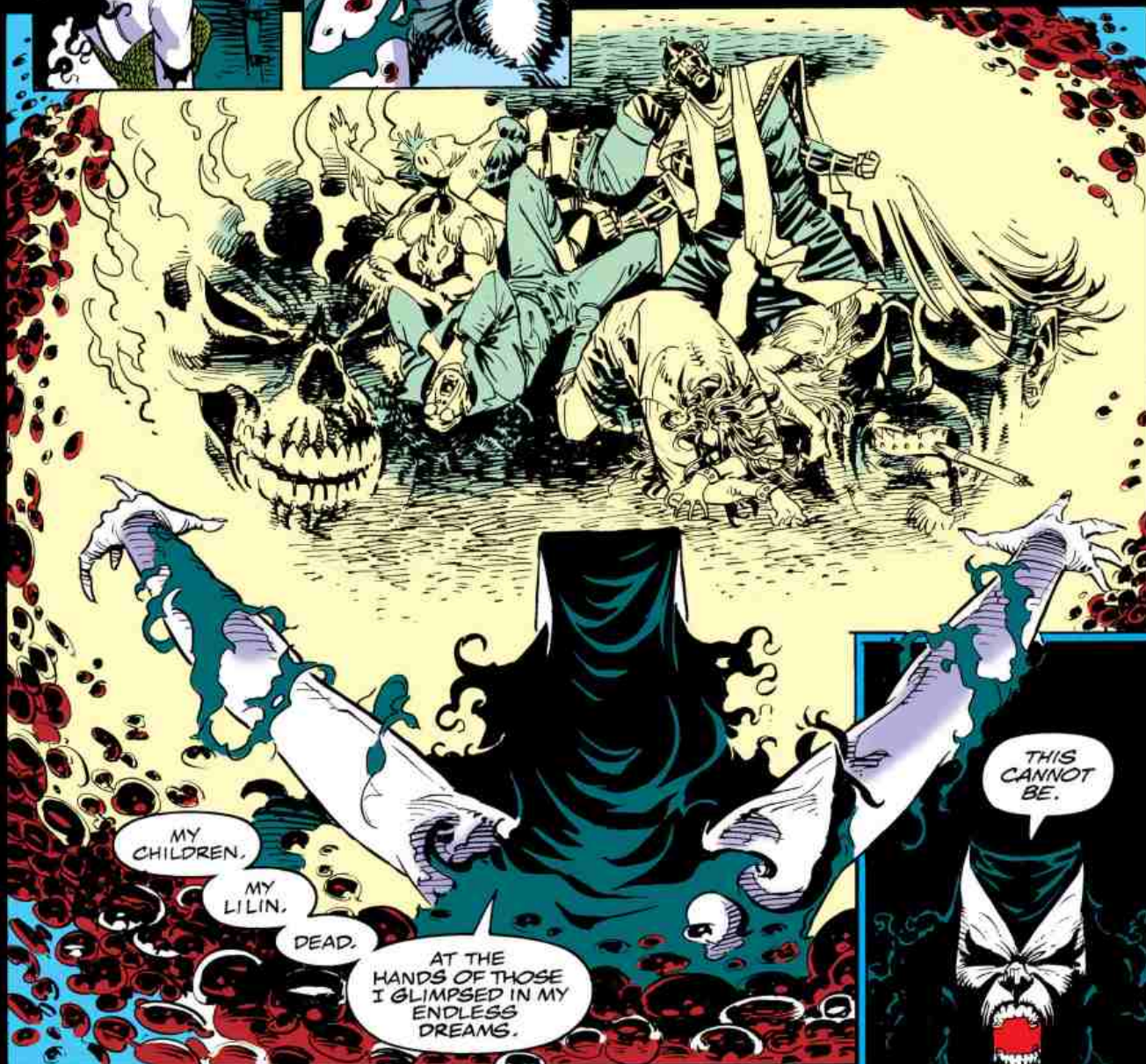
I OWE YOU...

KRAK

...A QUICK DEATH.

I MUST SEE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.

THE ENTRAILS OF THE BEAST THAT HAS SO LONG SERVED AS MY PRISON WILL SERVE AS THE MEDIUM FOR MY DIVINATION.



MY CHILDREN.

MY LILIN.

DEAD.

AT THE HANDS OF THOSE I GLIMPSED IN MY ENDLESS DREAMS.

THIS CANNOT BE.



THEY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO JOIN THEIR COMPANIONS.

THEY MUST BE BROKEN BEFORE THEIR FULL POWER IS REALIZED.



COME TO ME, MY CHILDREN.

MOTHER HAS RETURNED.



WE HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO.

COME.



MOTHER!



IT WASN'T A DREAM.

NO PILGRIM, I HAVE RETURNED.

THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE.

MY CHILDREN MUST BE GATHERED TO ME.



YES, MOTHER.



CARNIVAL.

PROVIDENCE,
RHODE ISLAND...

SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

NOTHING'S
SET UP.

THIS IS A
WEEKEND. THE
CARNIVAL SHOULD
BE LIT UP LIKE THE
FOURTH OF JULY.

I WANT
ANSWERS.

SOMETHIN'
COMING THIS
WAY.

YOU KNOW
THE ORDERS.

NO
OUTSIDERS
ARE TO COME
ONTO THE
CARNIE
GROUNDS!

'SPECIALLY NO
FLAMING-HEADED
BIKER!

STOMP
'EM!



JEEZ!
WHAT IS THIS
THING?



I'M TAKIN' THIS
ONE OUT--

REALLY,
RED?

BOSS?

HOLD
IT! IT'S THE
BOSS!

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING WITH A
ROADBLOCK? WHY
ISN'T EVERYTHING
SET UP?



WE'RE HAVING TROUBLE
WITH THE LOCAL LAW
GETTING THE PROPER
PERMITS.

CLARA CALLED FOR
THE EXTRA SECURITY,
SHE HAD ONE OF HER
PREMONITIONS.

THE FLAMING GUY
FIT THE DESCRIPTION
OF TROUBLE.

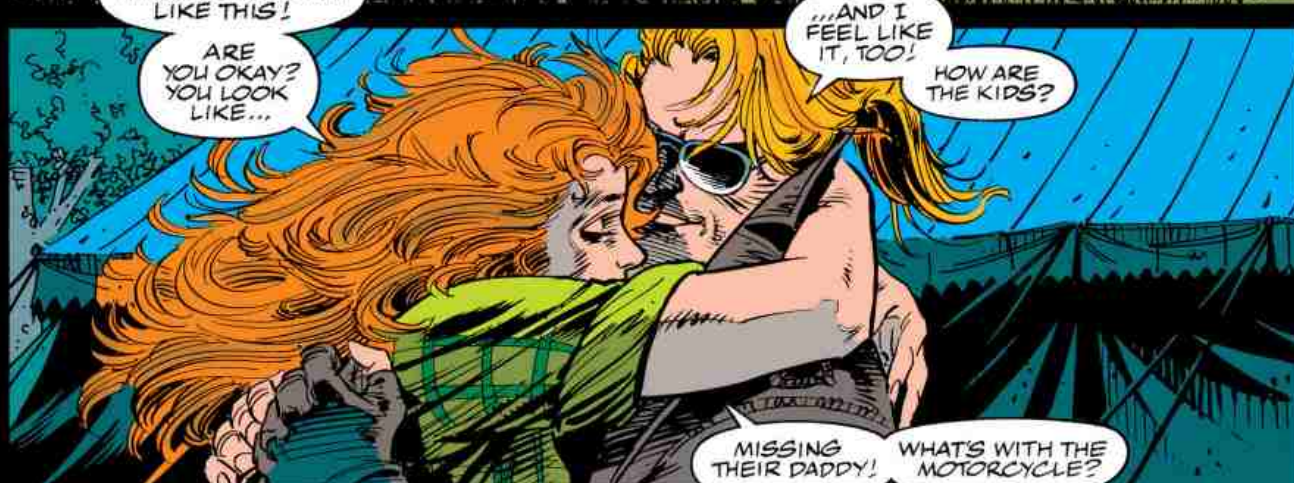
HE'S WITH
ME.



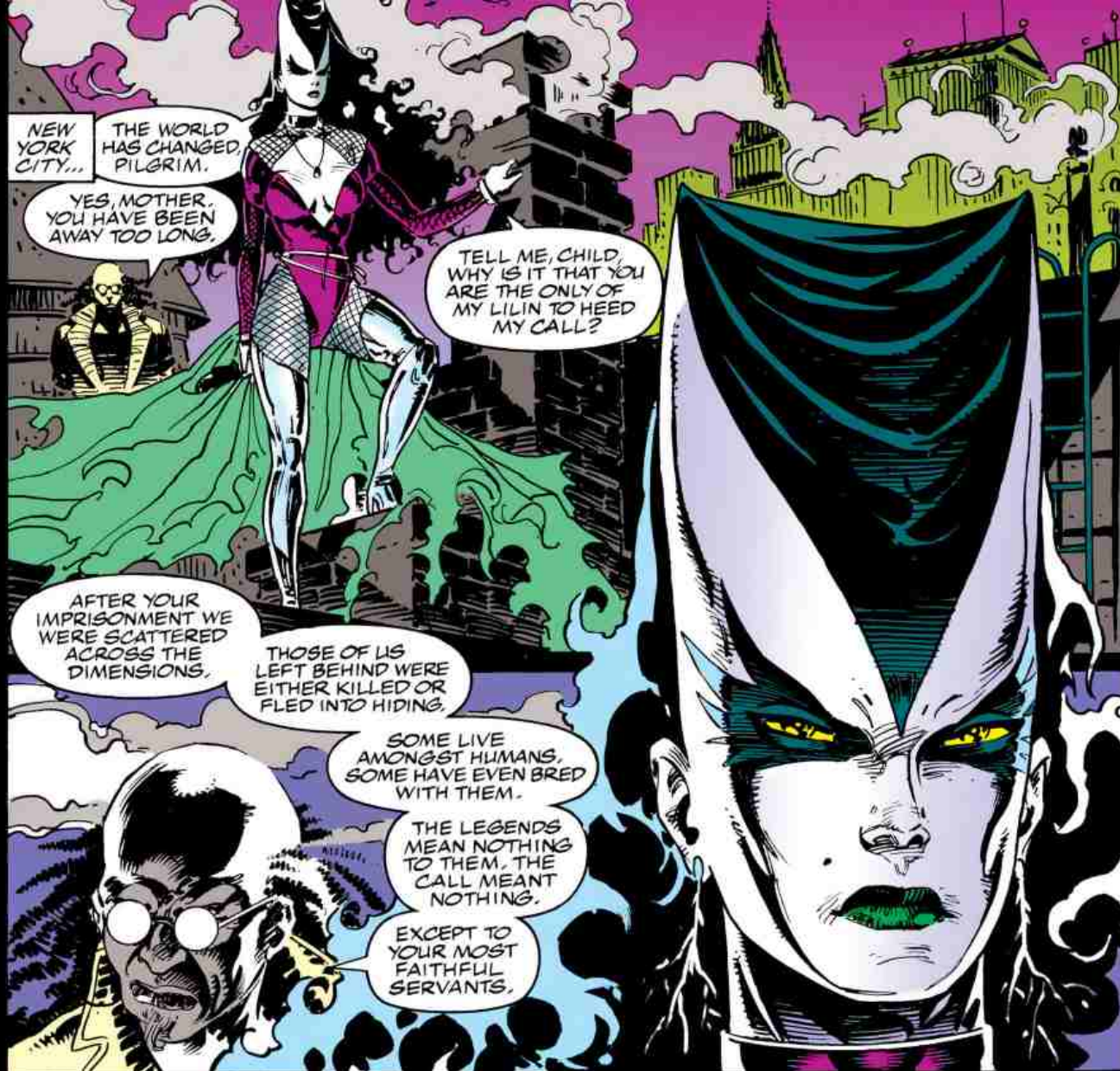
TAKE CARE
OF HIM.

I'M GOING TO
SEE ROXANNE
AND THE KIDS
FIRST...

...THEN I'LL TALK
TO CLARA.







NEW YORK CITY...

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED, PILGRIM.

YES, MOTHER, YOU HAVE BEEN AWAY TOO LONG.

TELL ME, CHILD, WHY IS IT THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY OF MY LILIN TO HEED MY CALL?

AFTER YOUR IMPRISONMENT WE WERE SCATTERED ACROSS THE DIMENSIONS.

THOSE OF US LEFT BEHIND WERE EITHER KILLED OR FLED INTO HIDING.

SOME LIVE AMONGST HUMANS, SOME HAVE EVEN BRED WITH THEM.

THE LEGENDS MEAN NOTHING TO THEM, THE CALL MEANT NOTHING.

EXCEPT TO YOUR MOST FAITHFUL SERVANTS.

I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WOULD RETURN, MOTHER.

IT IS TIME THAT THE LEGENDS START HAVING MEANING AGAIN.

TAKE ME TO MY CHILDREN, PILGRIM.

AS YOU WISH.

SECONDS LATER...

CREED.

THE TIME
HAS COME, MY
FRIEND!

LILITH, OUR
MOTHER, SHE'S
RETURNED. AS
THE LEGENDS--

LEGENDS?

I GAVE UP
ON LEGENDS
LONG AGO.

OLD LEGENDS
OF AN EVIL THAT
IS BEST
FORGOTTEN.

I WAS
NEVER YOUR
FRIEND!

I DISTANCED
MYSELF FROM ALL
OF YOU. NOW I SEEK
PEACE FROM THE OLD
TIMES. I TRY TO
FORGET.

YOU
DARE
DISTURB
ME?!

NO...
CREED...IT
IS HER!

IT'S...

HE
SPEAKS
THE TRUTH,
CHILD.

MOTHER?

YOU HAVE
RETURNED?
WHY?

COUGH!
COUGH!



BECAUSE MY CHILDREN NEED ME.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD SEE YOU ALL DEAD.

OUR FAMILY MUST ALL COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU WISH OF ME? I NO LONGER--

I AM YOUR MOTHER. YOU WILL DO THIS FOR ME.

YES, MOTHER, OF COURSE.

I WILL START WITH...

...THIS VOYEUR!



HIS DEATH WILL BE MY FIRST OFFERING TO YOU.

LILITH... MMMPH! NO... PPPH!

NO. WAIT. THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM! AN AURA THAT SHOWS HE MAY BE ONE OF US.

OH, YES, I ALWAYS KNEW. THE DREAM... ALL THOSE YEARS... MY POWER AND THEN THE VISION THROUGH GHOST RIDER'S EYES!*

I KNEW I WAS MORE THAN HUMAN! I AM CALLED BLACKOUT, MOTHER!

MOTHER?

I BELIEVE GRANDMOTHER WOULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE. THE LINK IS THERE! DILUTED, BUT THERE.

AND I SENSE THAT YOU CAN LEAD ME TO TWO OF THOSE THAT I SEEK.

YES, LILITH. I WOULD GIVE MY LIFE FOR YOU.

*SEE GHOST RIDER #28.



ROXANNE!

EMMA!

CRAIG!

THERE ARE
TOO MANY OF
THEM... I CAN'T
STOP THEM
ALL!

THE
HELLFIRE ISN'T
ENOUGH!

MY
FAMILY!

MY
FAMILY!

NO!





GOT TO
CLEAR MY
HEAD.

GO OVER TO
CLARA'S TRAILER.
SHE'S USUALLY
UP LATE!



FIND OUT
WHAT'S BEEN
SPOOKING
HER.



HELLO, JOHN. I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING YOU.

OF COURSE
YOU HAVE.

WHICH CLARA
MENNINGER AM I
GOING TO BE SPEAK-
ING WITH...



...THE FAMOUS
PSYCHIC OR THE
EQUALLY FAMOUS
PSYCHOLOGIST?

BOTH.

BUT MOSTLY
CLARA, YOUR
FRIEND!

YOU'VE HAD
A DREAM?



AND A
VISION
THROUGH
THE EYES
OF...

I KNOW.

THIS IS
WHAT WE NEED
TO SPEAK
ABOUT!

I MUST MAKE
CONTACT WITH
YOU, FEEL YOUR
INVOLVEMENT...



THE DAYS
OF MAGIC ARE
RETURNING.

WALLS
BETWEEN THE
DIMENSIONS ARE
WEAKENING.

EVIL IS
CROSSING
OVER.

A GREATER
EVIL COMING.

OTHERS MORE ADEPT
WILL BE RESPONSIBLE
FOR STRENGTHENING
THESE WALLS.

BUT YOU, JOHN
BLAZE, WITH THE HELP
OF GHOST RIDER, CAN
HUNT DOWN THE BEINGS
THAT HAVE ALREADY
CROSSED OVER.

YOU HAVE
OTHER ALLIES,
THOSE SEEN
IN YOUR
VISION.

SEEK
THEM OUT!



NO!
NO! I'M OUT
OF THE SUPER
HERO BUSINESS.

I'VE GOT A FAMILY.
LET GHOST RIDER GO
SAVE THE WORLD.

THIS INVOLVES YOUR
FAMILY, JOHN.

BULL!

YOU ARE A FOCAL POINT OF
MAGIC, JOHN. MYSTICAL
THINGS, GOOD
AND EVIL, ARE
DRAWN TO YOU
AS YOU ARE
DRAWN TO
THEM.

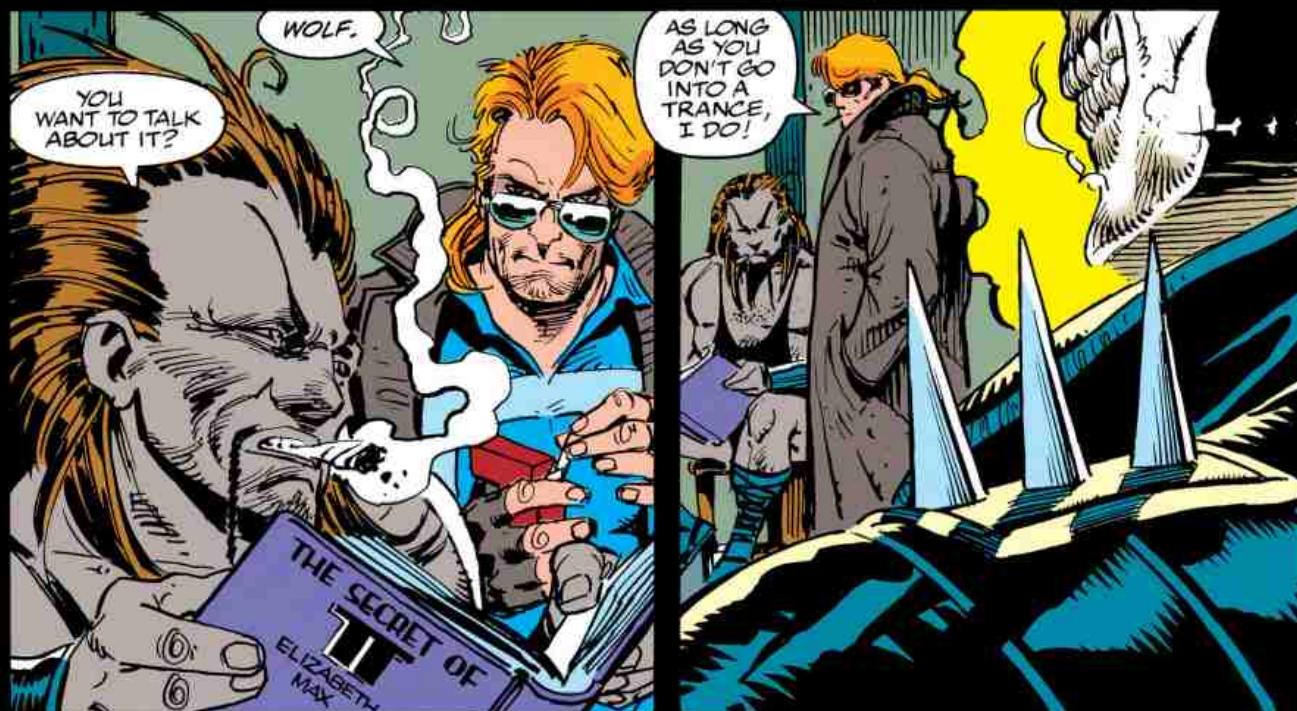
DO YOU REALLY
THINK YOUR LIFE
HAS BEEN A SERIES
OF COINCIDENCES?



YOU ARE A
THREAT TO THE
EXISTENCE OF
EVIL ON
EARTH.

BECOME THE HUNTER
OR THE HUNTED, JOHN.
YOUR FAMILY IS IN
REAL DANGER!

I DON'T
WANT TO HEAR
IT!



IN THE DARKNESS
AROUND THE CAR-
NIVAL GROUNDS...

TONIGHT, FOR
THE FIRST TIME IN
MY LIFE, I KILL
WITH A SENSE
OF PURPOSE.

LILITH WILL BE
PLEASED WITH ALL
THE LIVES I TAKE
IN HER NAME.

YOU'LL KILL WHO
AND WHEN I SAY!

PERHAPS
I SHOULD
START WITH
YOU!

DON'T EVEN THINK
IT. YOU HAVE NO IDEA
WITH WHOM YOU'RE
DEALING.

CREED WAS
LIKE A FATHER TO
US THROUGH THE
LOST YEARS.
HE--

ENOUGH!

THOSE
TIMES ARE LONG
DEAD!

CREED, IT WAS
YOU WHO KEPT
THE LEGENDS ALIVE.
YOU WHO HELD US
TOGETHER. YOU
DESERVE--

I DESERVE
MY PEACE.

IF YOU FIND THIS
ALL SO DISTASTEFUL,
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

FAMILY
OBLIGATIONS.

AT THAT
MOMENT...

WITCHCRAFT!
PAH! IT'S ALL A
BUNCH'A GARBAGE
TO SELL TO THE
SHILLS. THE CARNI-
VAL WILL PROTECT
YOU. WHATEVER
YOU'RE IN--WE'RE
IN IT TOGETHER.

AAAAAIIIEEE!

ROXANNE,
THE KIDS!

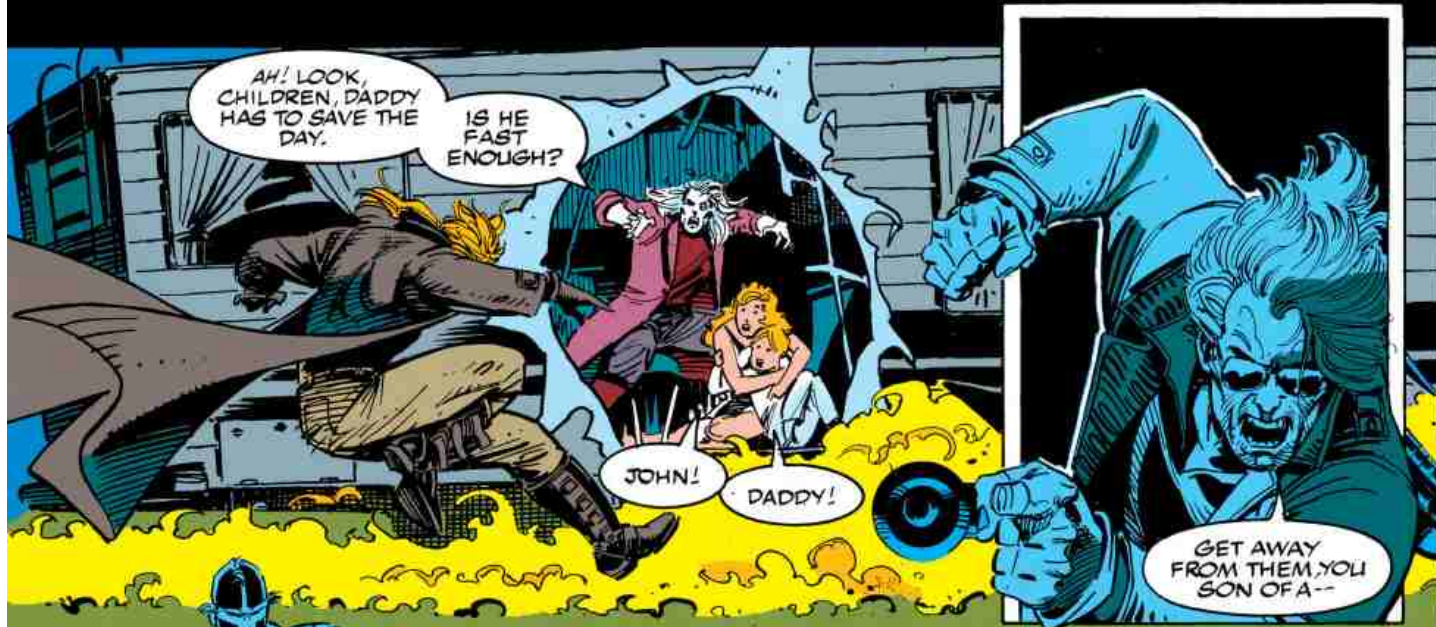
I'VE GOT
TO GET TO
THEM!

PROTECT
THEM.

CAN'T
MOVE FAST
ENOUGH.

OUR ENEMIES
ARE UPON US.













CRAIG!
COME HERE!

DADDY
IS ALMOST
FINISHED!



THIS WAS
UNNECESSARY.

IT WAS VERY
NECESSARY!



TKOOM

TKOOM

TKOOM

TKOOM



WHY? FOR
THE DEMON?

I WOULD
HAVE MADE
A DEAL WITH
YOU!

TKOOM





I MADE A
DEAL WITH THE
DEVIL A LONG
TIME AGO.

I LIVED TO
REGRET IT.

THIS
HAD TO END
TONIGHT...

...FOR MY
FAMILY!

THANK YOU,
YOU MAY HAVE
GIVEN ME THE
PEACE I HAVE BEEN
SEEKING.

PROTECT
YOUR FAMILY.



GIVE
THEM UP.

PILGRIM
AND CREED WERE
TOO SOFT!

ONLY I AM
DESERVING OF
LILITH'S
ATTENTIONS.

TONIGHT SHE
WILL WHISPER
MY NAME!

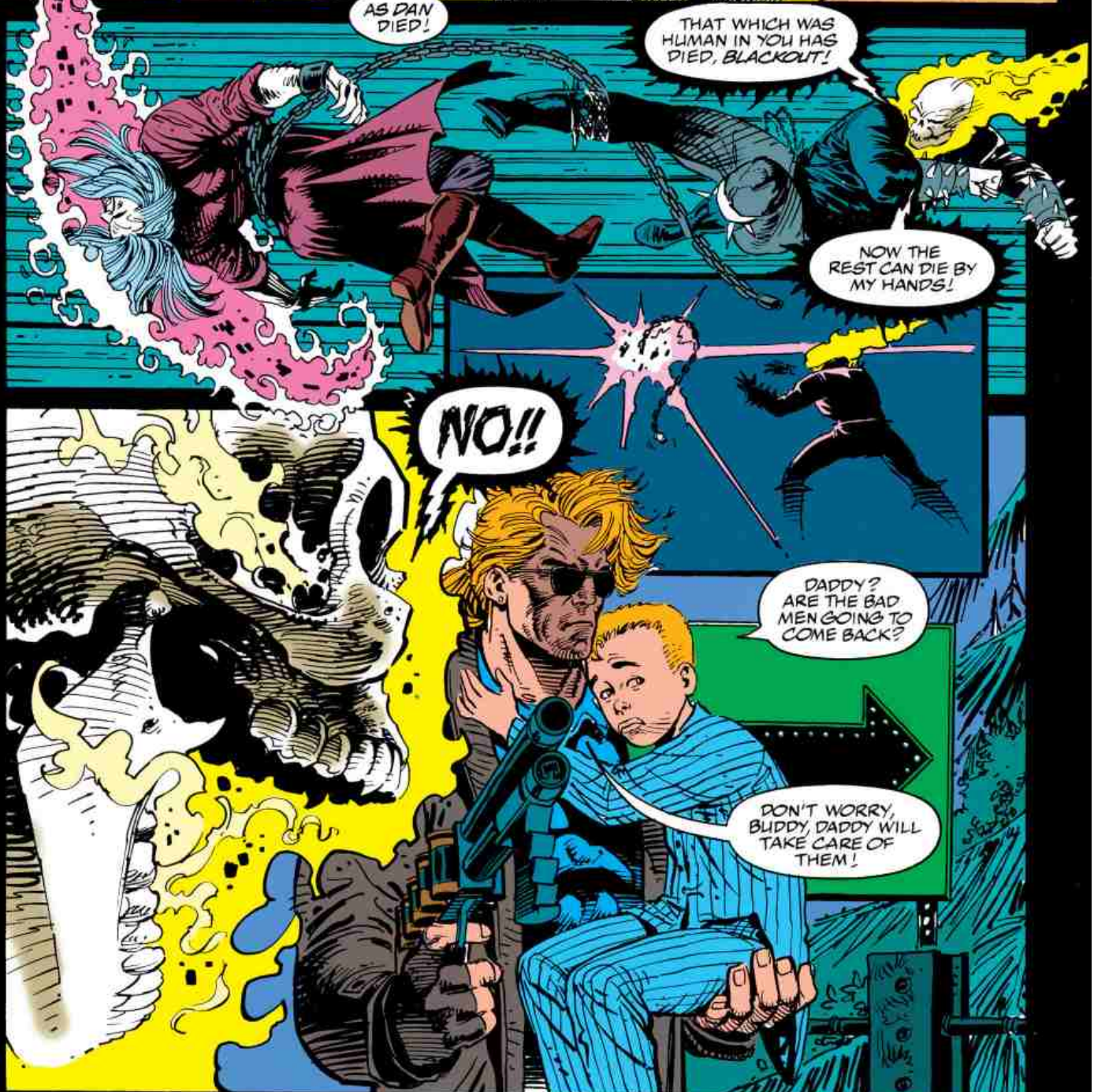


TCHINK



NO
BLACKOUT!

TONIGHT
YOU WHISPER
TO YOURSELF
THROUGH
PAIN.





PROVIDENCE...

ROXANNE,
THIS IS THE ONLY
WAY.

THE ONLY SAFE
PLACE FOR YOU AND
THE KIDS IS AWAY
FROM ME.

AND I'LL CLEAR
UP THIS MESS. WE'LL
BE TOGETHER.
PROMISE.

BUT WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

I'M STICKING WITH THE CARNIVAL.
I GAVE EVERYONE ELSE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE, BUT
THEY WON'T.

WE'RE A FAMILY.
YOU'VE GIVEN US A
HOME. WE'RE STICK-
ING WITH YOU.

GEORGE.
MARI. KEEP THEM
SAFE.

WITH OUR
LIVES, JOHN.

YOU KNOW
IT, BOSS!

GHOST RIDER,
LET'S GO FIND US
SOME DEMONS!

I'M SORRY
IT HAS TO BE
THIS WAY.

I HAVE HAD
ANOTHER VISION. ONE
TO GUIDE YOU ON YOUR
PATH. NEW YORK. A
WOMAN. MARTINE
BANCROFT. THE
PARAMOUNT HOTEL,
ROOM NUMBER 616.



LOOKS LIKE WE'RE
HEADING BACK TO THE
BIG APPLE.

I'M SURE THE
COPS HAVE
FORGOTTEN ABOUT
US BY NOW...



...NOT!



DO YOU THINK ANY
OF THEM ARE READY
FOR THE CHALLENGES
THEY MUST FACE?

FOR
ALL OF OUR
SAKES...

...I HOPE
THEY ARE!



THE SAGA OF THE MIDNIGHT
SONS CONTINUES NEXT
MONTH IN THE PREMIERE ISSUE
OF MORBIUS, THE LIVING
VAMPIRE!

NEXT MONTH IN SPIRITS OF
VENGEANCE--BLAZE MEETS
UP WITH HIS PAST!